

TOP SECRET

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON

16 MAY 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HELMS

25X1A

SUBJECT: Real-time read-out

As a result of our recent conversations with Dr. Land, I believe we should consider what actions we should take now leading toward development of a real-time read-out system.

Accordingly, I propose that we prepare by July 15 a paper for EXCOM consideration that addresses:

1. the value of real-time or near real-time read-out for indications, warning, crises, and day-to-day intelligence production;
2. the relative contribution to these intelligence needs of alternative performance in terms of area coverage, target frequency and resolution;
3. the status of technology and the effect of potential developments on our ability to provide alternative systems with near real-time read-out; and,
4. the value and cost of alternative real-time read-out systems and their effect on the total mix of satellite photography.

I have asked Herbert Benington of my staff to take the lead in preparation of such a paper working with the NRO, CIA and DoD staffs.

In the meantime, we have added [] in FY 69 funds to the CIA technology program.

NRO 25X1

NRO and OSD review(s) completed.

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GROUP 1

Excluded from automatic
downgrading and declassification

HANDLE VIA []

CONTROL SYSTEM

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